

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 6, with the following rewritten paragraph:

There are many known knitting machines. Such knitting machines are equipped with an electronic control device for controlling the knitting machine on the basis of a pattern program for the textile material to be produced. The pattern program may be produced in the control device itself or in an external electronic pattern apparatus from which it can then be supplied to the electronic control device in the knitting machine by means of a data carrier or data line. The knitting machine contains, furthermore, electrically driven thread feeders for supplying weft threads to the weft bars which, according to the pattern program, lay the weft threads across the knitting needles which tie up the weft threads. The knitting machines are equipped, furthermore, with a take-down device for the textile material produced. The disadvantage, however, is that the thread feeders can operate only at an adjustable constant speed which is not sufficient in many instances, since, particularly in the case of changing patterning, changing delivery quantities for the weft thread or weft threads are also required, and the weft bars have themselves to draw addition thread lengths which are lacking. This leads to faults in the textile material and/or also in the knitting machine during the processing of thread qualities which, in particular, have different thicknesses.